

What is claimed is:

1. Transmission equipment comprising:

a switch board having a cross-connect portion for making a multiplexed packet signal to branch to  
5 predetermined paths; and

a plurality of interface boards for interfacing the cross-connect portion with a multiplexed signal being transmitted on a path,

wherein at least one of the plurality of interface  
10 boards is a dedicated interface board having a path switch function of demultiplexing the multiplexed packet signal to each packet to route the demultiplexed packet signal to a predetermined path.

2. The transmission equipment according to claim 1,  
15 wherein the switch board and the plurality of interface boards are respectively inserted to slots mounted on a shelf frame so as to interconnect mutually through a backboard provided on the shelf frame.

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3. The transmission equipment according to claim 1,  
wherein the packet conforms to either IP (Internet Protocol), ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) or Frame Relay.

25 4. The transmission equipment according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of dedicated interface boards each having a path switch function of demultiplexing

the multiplexed packet signal to each packet to route the demultiplexed packet signal to a predetermined path,

wherein each of the plurality of dedicated interface boards includes an extension interface so that a packet  
5 to be directed to a path accommodated in the self interface board is routed to a predetermined path in the self interface board, and that a packet to be directed to a path not accommodated in the self interface board is routed to the other dedicated interface board accommodating the path  
10 concerned.

5. The transmission equipment according to claim 1,  
wherein the dedicated interface board having the path switch function of routing the demultiplexed packet signal  
15 to a predetermined path is redundant in configuration having a working side and a protection side, to transfer an identical signal to both the working side and the protection side of the interface board when a multiplexed signal is transferred from the interface board to the  
20 dedicated interface board having the path switch function, using a 1:2 connection produced by a cross-connect portion in the switch board.

6. The transmission equipment according to claim 5,  
25 wherein a packet signal from either the working side or protection side of the dedicated interface board to transfer to the switch board through the cross-connect

portion, is selected by a 2:1 selector in the path switch function of the switch board.